extends through the thickness of the panel even though no single panel domain extends the entire thickness of the panel.

Applicant asserts "extending through the thickness of the panel" means extending through the entire thickness of the panel, *i.e.*, spanning from a primary surface to an opposing surface. Such a meaning has support throughout the present Application, including each of the Figures. Respectfully, Applicant believes that a skilled artisan would understand the phrase in a similar fashion, both from a dictionary definition of "through", from its context in the claim and from the claim's support in the Application.

Enclosed is a photocopy of page 1230 of Merriam Webster's Collegiate

Dictionary, 10th edition, which contains definitions for "through". Each of these
definitions indicates that "through" means extending *entirely* from one surface to
another or one boundary to another. Applicant fails to find support for a definition of
"through" analogous to the Examiner's belief that "through" can mean less than all
the way through.

Furthermore, the present Application sets for a definition of "through" in the context of the phrase in question as extending from one primary surface to an opposing primary surface. Applicant points to the sentence that spans lines 33 and 34 on page 5 of the present Application which reads: "Desirably, a band also extends the thickness of the panel." This is the specific sentence Applicant used for support in amending the present claims to include "extending through the thickness of the panel..." in the response dated 11 June 2003. Applicant asserts that this sentence on lines 33 and 34 of page 5 unquestionable defines "extending through the thickness of the panel..." as meaning extending the thickness of the panel. "Thickness of the panel" is synonymous with "panel thickness", which means a perpendicular distance between a primary face and its opposing face (*see*, page 4, lines 33-34 of the present invention). Therefore, the meaning of "extending through the thickness of the panel ..." according to the context of the present Application is extending from a primary face perpendicularly to an opposing face.

Neither the dictionary definitions nor the context of the present invention supports the Examiner's understanding of "through" as meaning extending partly through as opposed to entirely through the panel thickness. Furthermore, neither the

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dictionary definitions nor the context of the present invention provides a meaning for the claims of the present invention that encompasses the layered structures of Reeves, et al. As such, Applicant finds the structures of Reeves, et al. outside the claim scope of the present Application. If the structures of Reeves, et al. are outside the claim scope of the present invention then the present rejections are without merit.

In view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the present rejections and allow Claims 1-12 and 15-22 of the present Application. If the Examiner wishes to maintain any or all of the rejections, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide for the record (1) a reason to dispute the enclosed dictionary definitions for "through"; and (2) an explanation as to how a skilled artisan could interpret "through" from the context of the Application, particularly that used as support for the presently disputed claim amendment, in a manner that means less than from a primary face to an opposing face.

Respectfully submitted,

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thros-tle \'thrä-sol\ n [ME, fr. OE - more at THRUSH] (bef. 12c)

thros-tle \'thrä-sal\ n [ME, fr. OE — more at THRUSH] (bef. 12c): \'1HRUSH \!; specif: SONG THRUSH \\
'throt-tle \'thrä-t'\\ vb throt-tled; throt-tling \'thrät-lin, 'thrä-t'\-in\
[ME throtlen, fr. throte throat] vi (15c) 1 a (1): to compress the throat of: CHOKE (2): to kill by such action b: to prevent or check expression or activity of: SUPRESS 2 a: to decrease the flow of (as steam or fuel to an engine) by avolve b: to regulate and esp. to reduce the speed of (as an engine) by such means c: to vary the thrust of (a rocket engine) during flight \(\sim vi: \) to throttle something (as an engine) — usu. used with back or down (the pilot throttled back) — throt-tler \'thrät-lər, 'thrä-t'-3-\'n n \\
'throttle n [perh. fr. (assumed) ME, dim. of ME throte throat] (ca. 1547) 1 a: THROAT 1a b: TRACHEA 1 2 a: a valve for regulating the supply of a fluid (as steam) to an engine; esp: the valve controlling the volume of vaporizzd fuel charge delivered to the cylinders of an internal combustion engine b: the lever controlling this valve c: the condition of being throttled — at full throttle: at full speed throt-tle-able \'thrät'l-s-bal\' adj (1960): capable of having the thrust varied — used of a rocket engine throttle-hold \'thrät'l-shold \n n (1935): a vicious, strangling, or stultifying control

throt-tle-able \'thra-t'l-a-bəl\ adj (1960): capable of having the thrust varied—used of a rocket engine throt-tle-hold \'thra-t'l-hold\'n (1935): a vicious, strangling, or stultifying control \text{!through \'thriu's prep [ME thurh, thruh, through, fr. OE thurh; akin to OHG durh through. L trans across, beyond, Skt tarati he crosses over] (bel. 12c) 1 a (1)—used as a function word to indicate movement into at one side or point and out at another and esp, the opposite side of (drove a nail ~ the board). (2): by way of (left ~ the door). (3)—used as a function word to indicate passage from one end or boundary to another (a highway ~ the forest) (a road ~ the desert). (4): without stopping for: PAST (drove ~ a red light) b—used as a function word to indicate passage into and out of a treatment, handling, or process (the matter has already passed ~ be rhands). 2—used as a function word to indicate means, agency, or intermediacy: as a: by means of: by the agency of b: because of (failed ~ ignorance) c: by common descent from or relationship with (related ~ their grandfather). 3 a: over the whole surface or extent of: THROUGHOUT (homes scattered ~ the valley) b—used as a function word to indicate exposure to a specified set of conditions (put him ~ hell). 4—used as a function word to indicate acrosure to a specified set of conditions (put him ~ hell). 4—used as a function word to indicate a period of time: as a: during the entire period of (all ~ her life) b: from the beginning to the end of (the tower stood ~ the beak (unetion word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (went ~ the money in a year) b—used as a function word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (went ~ the money in a year) b—used as a function word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (went ~ the money in a year) b—used as a function word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (went ~ the money in a year) b—used as a function word to indicate completion or exhaustion (got ~ the book) (w

compare STROPHIC
through-ith-er or through-oth-er \'thrü-(2-)thor\\ adv ['through +
other] (1596) chiefly Scot: in confusion: PROMISCUOUSLY
through-ly \'thrü-[2\ adv (15c) archaic: in a thorough manner
'through-out \'thrü-aut\\ adv (13c) 1: in or to every part: EVERYWHERE (of one color >> 2: during the whole time or action: from
beginning to end (remained loyal <>)
'throughout prep (13c) 1: all the way from one end to the other of
: in or to every part of (cities ~ the United States) 2: during the
whole course or period of (troubled her ~ her life)
through-put \'thrü-,put\ n (ca. 1915): OUTPUT. PRODUCTION (the ~ of a
computer)

computer) through street n (1930); a street on which the through movement of

traffic is given preference
through street n (1930): a street on which the through movement of
traffic is given preference
throve past of Thrive
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hurried and usu. careless manner (a bookshelf hastily thrown together)

2: to bring into casual association (different kinds of people are thrown together — Richard Sennett)

5yn Throw, CAST, TOSS, FLING, HURL, PITCH, SLING mean to cause to move swiftly through space by a propulsive movement or a propelling force. THROW is general and interchangeable with the other terms but may specif. imply a distinctive motion with bent arm (can throw a fastball and a curve). CAST usu. implies lightness in the thing thrown and sometimes a scattering (cast it to the winds). TOSS suggests a light or careless or aimless throwing and may imply an upward motion (tossed the coat on the bed). FILNG stresses a violent throwing (flung the ring back in his face). HURL implies power as in throwing a massive weight (hurled himself at the intruder). PITCH suggests throwing carefully at a target (pitch horseshoes). SLING stresses either the use of whirling momentum in throwing or directness of aim (slung the bag over his shoulder).

2throw n (1530) 1 a: an act of throwing, hurling, or flinging b (1): an act of throwing dice (2): the number thrown with a cast of dice c: a method of throwing an opponent in wrestling or judo 2: the amount of vertical displacement produced by a geological fault 5: a undertaking involving chance or danger: RISK, VENTURE 4: the amount of vertical displacement produced by a geological fault 5: a: the extreme movement given to a pivoted or reciprocating piece by a cam, crank, or eccentric: STROKE b: the length of the radius of a crank or the virtual crank radius of an eccentric or cam 6: a: a light coverlet (as for a bed) b: a woman's scarf or light wrap — a throw if for each one: APIECE (copies are to be sold at \$5 a throw — Harvey Breit)

1throw-away \thro-a-wa\n n (1903) 1: one that is or is designed to be

Hrett)
1throw-away \'thro-o-,w\and n (1903) 1: one that is or is designed to be thrown away: as a: a free handbill or circular b: a line of dialogue (as in a play) de-emphasized by casual delivery; esp: a joke or witticism delivered casually 2: something made or done without care or

interest int

: GIVE UP
throw off vt (1618) 1 a: to free oneself from: get rid of (threw all
his inhibitions) b: to cast off often in a hurried or vigorous manner
: ABANDON (threw off all restraint) c: DISTRACT, DIVERT (dogs throw
off by a false scent) 2: EMIT, GIVE OFF (stacks throwing off plume of
smoke) 3: to produce in an offhand manner: execute with speed or
facility (some little... tune that the composer had thrown off—Jame
Hilton) 4 a: to cause to depart from an expected or desired course
(mistakes threw his calculations off a bit) b: to cause to make a mistake: MISLAD ~ vi 1: to begin hunting 2: to make derogaton
comments

throw out vr (1526) 1 a: to remove from a place, office, or employment usu. in a sudden or unexpected manner b: to get rid of a worthless or unnecessary 2: to give expression to: UTTER (thrw out a remark... that utterly confounded him—Jean Stafford) 3: to dismiss from acceptance or consideration: REJECT (the testimony as thrown out) 4: to make visible or manifest: DISPLAY (the signal was thrown out for the... fleet to prepare for action—Archibald Duncan) 5: to leave behind: OUTDISTANCE 6: to give forth from within: EMT 7 a: to send out b: to cause to project: EXTEND 8: CONFISE 05: CONFISE Tax (automobiles in line blocking the road... threw the whole schedule out —F. D. Roosevelt) 9: to cause to stand out : make prominent 10: to make a throw that enables a teammate to put out (a base runner)

(a base runner)
throw over vi (1835) 1: to forsake despite bonds of attachment of

duty 2: to refuse to accept: REJECT throw pillow n (1956): a small pillow used esp. as a decorative accept

throw rug n (1928): SCATTER RUG
throw-ster \thro-ster\n (15c): one who throws textile filaments
throw-ster \thro-ster\n (15c): one who throws textile filaments
throw up v1 (15c): 1: to raise quickly 2: GIVE UP. QUIT (the urge.
to throw up all intellectual work —Norman Mailer) 3: to build hurtriedly (new houses thrown up almost overnight) 4: voMIT 5: to
riedly (new houses thrown up almost overnight) 4: voMIT 5: to
bring forth: PRODUCE 6: to make distinct esp. by contrast: cause to
bring forth: PRODUCE 6: to make distinct esp. by contrast: cause to
throw up one's hands: to admit defeat (in the end throws up hi
hands in despair —Frank Conroy)
throw weight n (1969): the maximum payload of an ICBM
thru war of THROUGH
thrum \throm\n [ME, fr. OE -thrum (in tungethrum ligament of the
tongue): akin to OHG drum fragment] (14c) 1 a (1): a fringe of
tongue): akin to OHG drum fragment] (14c) 1 a (1): a fringe of
warp threads left on the loom after the cloth has been removed
: one of these warp threads b: a tuft or short piece of rope yarn used

in thrumming canvas — usu. used in pl. fiber, or threadlike leaf on a plant; also: a tures — thrum adjum vi thrummed; thrum-ming (15c)

FINDE 2: to insert short pieces of rope of canvas) to make a rough surface or a shout rigging to prevent chafing thrum by thrummed; thrum-ming [imit

whrum by thrummed; thrum-ming [imit pluck a stringed instrument idly: STRUM.

ous hum ~ vt 1: to play (as a stringer dazed manner 2: to recite tiresomely or thrum n (1798); the monotornous sound o thrush 'thresh' n [ME thrusche, fr. OE thrush, OHG droscala, L turdus] (bef. 12c) or medium-sized oscine birds (families T which are mostly of a plain color often weart of which are excellent sincers. 2: many of which are excellent singers

many of which are excellent singers 2. thrush n [prob. of Scand origin; akin to] (1665) 1: a disease that is caused by a cours esp. in infants and children, and is the oral cavity: broadly: CANDIDIASIS (va) disorder of the feet in various animals (as a thrust \text{'thrast'}, vb thrust; thrust-ing [b hysta; prob. akin to ON thripia to tire, O RHEAT] vt (13c) 1: to push or drive with other or pierce something by or as if by learly 3: EXTEND. SPREAD 4: STAB. PIER willing person) forcibly into a course of at alto the job) b: to introduce often imp IENOLATE 6: to press. force, or impose to exercise or passage b: to push forward: propard: PROJECT 2: to make a thrust, with a pointed weapon (~at them with a ktrust n (ca. 1586) 1 a: a push or lung (1): a verbal attack (2): a military assa and pressure b: the sideways force or prime against another part (as of an arch ag force produced by a propeller or by a jet or chicle (as an aircraft) forward d: a nearly a: a forward or upward push b: a repople) in a specified direction 4 a: a maning b: principal concern or objective trusteer also thrust-or \text{'throst-rai'n n (1: an engine (as a jet engine) that develops bud or a stream of particles trust-ful (1'throst-fal) adj (1909) Brit: cleases of the proscenium so that the audience as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction as a forced and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a construction and the proscenium so that the audience are a constru thrush n [prob. of Scand origin; akin to

ebo: a forestage that is extended into the

the way \thru-, wā\ n (1930): EXPRESSWA that \thru-, wā\ n (1930): EXPRESSWA that \thru-, wā\ n (1930): EXPRESSWA that \thru-down thud-ded; thud-ding (1796): to in the standard that the standard the standard that the standard th

thug \'thag\ n [Hindi thag, lit., thief] (1810 GANGSTER, KILLER - thug-gery \'1

the gish adj

daja \thu-ja, 'thyu-\ n [NL Thuja, fr. M]

daja \thu-ja, 'thyu-\ n more at THYME]

omi world

Thule \(\text{Vii-le\}\) adj \([Thule\]\) Greenland\(\) (1) be culture existing in the arctic lands fror four 500 A.D. to 1400 A.D.

Ball-im \(\text{Vii-le\}\) and \(\text{Vii-le\}\) for \(\text{In\}\) in \(\text{In\}

bob piano n (1949) : MBIRA brint \(\frac{1}{2}\) them-print\(\frac{n}{2}\) (1900): all print\(\frac{n}{2}\) made by the thumb; esp: a print the inside of the first joint\(\frac{n}{2}\) becomes \(\frac{1}{2}\). The inside of the first joint\(\frac{n}{2}\) (1794) 1: a: